

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Claims 1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A method for delivering messages in a communications network, comprising:

monitoring an arrival rate of messages destined for a geographical area within a short time period;

establishing, upon reaching a threshold, a multicast group for routing the messages to the geographical area by joining to the multicast group network devices responsible for delivering the messages;

delivering, upon establishment of the multicast group, the messages to the geographical area.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, further comprising delivering any further messages destined for the geographical area arriving after the establishment of the multicast group via the multicast group.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising removing the multicast group after a predefined time period has elapsed within which no further messages destined for the geographical area arrive.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein each of the messages destined for the geographical area is defined by a geographical destination address.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the geographical destination address of each of the messages destined for the geographical area is identical or substantially similar.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein said monitoring of the rate of arrival is performed using a soft state message counter.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said delivering uses fast internet protocol forwarding to forward the messages in the multicast group.

17. (Original) A network device located in a communications network of network devices, comprising

means for monitoring an arrival rate of messages destined for a geographical area within a short time period;

means for establishing, upon reaching a threshold, a multicast group for routing the messages to the geographical area by joining to the multicast group the network devices responsible for delivering the messages;

means for delivering, upon establishment of the multicast group, the messages to the geographical area.

18. (Original) A network device according to claim 8, wherein each network device is a router or a gateway.

19. (New) A method, comprising:

monitoring a plurality of messages which are routed to a plurality of mobile devices located in a geographic area;

grouping the plurality of messages into a dynamic temporary multicast group;

sending the plurality of messages to the plurality of mobile devices by using the temporary multicast group; and

deleting the temporary multicast group after a set time period in which there are no monitored messages.